[0122] Fastening member **402** defines a pair of windows **132** each spanned by one of the encircling members. Each window may be open laterally (an open perimeter), as shown here, or may be completely bounded around its perimeter (a closed perimeter) (e.g., see FIGS. **2-5**). Windows **132** may be open on opposite lateral sides of fastening member **402**.

[0123] Each encircling member is secured at a distinct crimp region **92**. An alignment aperture **182** may be shared by both crimp regions. To deform a crimp region, the jaws of a crimping tool may be placed on opposite sides of the crimp region, with one jaw disposed in aperture **182**, and the other jaw abutted with a lateral wall region at the perimeter of the fastening member.

[0124] FIG. **31** shows a pair of exemplary binding devices **420** stabilizing cut sternum **52**. Each device **420** includes a pair of encircling members **68** secured around a portion of the sternum in a parallel configuration, orthogonal to the long axis of the sternum, with a same fastening member **422**. Each encircling member may or may not extend into the sternum. Fastening member **422** defines a U-shaped aperture **294** that functions as both a window for receiving jaws of a cutting tool and an alignment aperture for receiving jaws of a crimping tool (also see FIG. **24**).

Example 4

Fastening Member with Perimeter Cutting Windows

[0125] This example describes an exemplary binding device including a fastening member **440** with elongate tabs or protrusions **442** that opposingly flank a pair of perimeter cutting windows **132**; see FIGS. **32** and **33**. Tabs **442** each may be equipped with a prong **150** formed under and projecting downward from each tab.

[0126] Each tab **442** may be structured as an elongated corner of the fastening member. The tab may project from a body portion **444** that provides crimp region **92**. The tab may project along an axis **446** that is parallel or oblique to spanning axis **118** of the fastening member. For example, axis **446** may form a smaller angle with spanning axis **118** than with crimping axis **95**. A characteristic dimension of the fastening member and/or of a tab, measured parallel to spanning axis **118** may be at least about twice a characteristic dimension of body portion **444**, measured parallel to the same axis.

[0127] FIG. **33** shows fastening member **440** disposed on sternum **52** and securing encircling member **68** to the sternum. Tabs **442** in combination with prongs **150** may elevate a region **448** of the encircling member that extends out of window **132** toward bone. The elevated region of the encircling member may be conveniently positioned in window **132** for cutting the encircling member in a re-entry procedure.

Example 5

Crimping a Fastening Member Using Male and Female Jaws

[0128] This example describes use of an exemplary crimping tool **460** having opposable jaws **462**, **464** providing jaw faces that are respectively convex and concave; see FIGS. **34-36**.

[0129] FIG. **34** shows an exemplary binding device **470** in an assembled configuration before crimping with tool **460** (see FIGS. **35** and **36**). Device **470** includes fastening member **472** and encircling member **68** that spans crimp region **92** twice.

[0130] Crimp region may include a plurality of deformable apertures **134**, which may be arranged along or transverse to spanning axis **118** from each other. Alignment apertures **182** may be bounded by contact sites **184** that are linear, as shown here, or convex and/or concave.

[0131] FIG. **35** shows crimping tool **460** mated with fastening member **472**, with male jaw **462** and female jaw **464** received in respective alignment apertures **182**. Male jaw **462** may have a jaw face defining a protrusion **474** that is aligned, along spanning axis **118**, with a recess **476** defined by the jaw face of female jaw **464**.

[0132] FIG. **36** shows how jaws **462**, **464** can deform crimp region **92** when the jaws apply compressive force, indicated by arrows at **478**, to the opposing contact sites of the crimp region. The male jaw may form an indentation **480** in the adjacent contact site of the crimp region. The female jaw may form a protrusion **482** in the adjacent contact site of the crimp region, with protrusion **482** aligned with indentation **480**. In some cases, the female jaw also may form one or more indentations **484** in the adjacent contact site of the crimp region.

Example 6

Selected Embodiments

[0133] This example describes selected embodiments of the present disclosure, presented as a series of numbered paragraphs.

[0134] A1. A method of binding bone, the method comprising: (a) selecting a fastening member having a crimp region and defining a window at least partially bounded by a wall region of the fastening member; (b) arranging an encircling member to extend through the crimp region and form a loop around a portion of bone and span the window outside the crimp region between spaced sites of the wall region; and (c) crimping the crimp region to secure at least one end of the loop to the fastening member.

[0135] A2. The method of paragraph A1, further comprising a step of sectioning the encircling member with a cut placed through a portion of the encircling member that spans the window.

[0136] A3. The method of paragraph A2, wherein the step of sectioning the encircling member is performed with a cutting tool disposed in the window.

[0137] A4. The method of paragraph A2, wherein the step of sectioning the encircling member includes a step of cutting the loop after the step of crimping.

[0138] A5. The method of paragraph A2, wherein the step of sectioning the encircling member includes a step of cutting through the encircling member at a position outside the loop.

[0139] A6. The method of paragraph A5, wherein the step of sectioning the encircling member cuts through the encircling member at a first position along the loop and at a second position outside the loop.

[0140] A7. The method of paragraph A1, wherein the step of arranging includes a step of arranging the fastening member such that a top surface region of the fastening member faces away from the portion of bone and a bottom surface region of the fastening member faces toward the portion of bone.

[0141] A8. The method of paragraph A7, wherein the step of arranging includes a step of arranging the encircling member such that both ends of the loop extend through the fastening member on a path intermediate the top and bottom surface regions.